

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Is Routine Reporting of 92002, V72.0 OK?

Question: Our office has been coding exams (routine exams) as 92002 and V72.0 when we don't see anything wrong. Would this raise any red flags?

Texas Subscriber

Answer: No. You may use the general ophthalmological services code 92002 (Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation with initiation of diagnostic and treatment program; intermediate, new patient) with V72.0 (Special investigations and examinations; examination of eyes and vision). The V code indicates that the patient presented for a routine vision exam or a preventive service. Listing no additional diagnosis tells the insurer that you did not detect or treat the patient for any condition or problem.

Coverage: If a patient has a medical-only insurance policy, the plan will not cover a claim for 92002 with V72.0. But BCBS of Texas will pay this combination for beneficiaries who have a routine vision rider on their health insurance policies.

You might, however, raise a red flag--or trigger a denial--if you code a routine eye exam, in which you found no problem, with an E/M code, such as 99212 (Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient -). The office visit codes are for problem-oriented visits. Many insurers have system edits in place that will reject a well code (such as V72.0) with a problem-related code (for instance, 99201-99215).